



IOP NEWSLETTER 63

APRIL 1st 1998

CONTENTS

IOP NEWS.....	2
NEWS OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.....	2
NEWS OF INDIVIDUALS.....	2

PLEASE MAIL NEWS AND CORRESPONDENCE
TO YOUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OR
TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER 64.

The views expressed in the newsletter are those of its
correspondents and do not necessarily reflect the
policy of IOP.

IOP NEWS

EDITORIAL

A no-doubt apocryphal story tells that the average refereed paper in our field is read by two and a half people. One is the author, the second someone else, and the half the referee. Some market research would give interesting commentary to this view though I can half believe it. Perhaps that's because of my low confidence in what I think and write about in academic journals or else that I'm increasingly lazy to travel to a good library once a week and read the work of others.

But surely newsletters like this one must be another matter. They are casual, disposable, unauthoritative. Some are actually well written and good fun to read in a leisurely sort of a way, so writing pieces for newsletters, you'd think, would be more satisfying than for refereed journals. Yet look at this one, produced a good three months since the last edition: two sides of paper. As editor, I've done no more or less than usual, just recognising a slow interval. If the writing in newsletters were seen by employers as being half respectable, maybe the content would be different. And then more than two and a half people might read it. I must stop now, or this edition would go to a third page!

M. BOULTER, London

ABOUT AN IOP JOURNAL

The publication in IOP Newsletter 61 of a proposal for an International Journal of Palaeobotany, addressed by a group of IOP Members, generated a number of discussions and exchanges. Of particular interest for our community is the following letter received from Dr Femke Wallicm, a Publishing Editor of Elsevier:

"I am writing to you with regard to the Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology of which you are a board member. It has come to my attention that the IOP, of which you are President, is contemplating starting its own journal. As you undoubtedly know, it is not that easy nowadays to start up your own journal. Therefore, I was wondering whether it would be possible to have a collaboration between Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology and the IOP. We would be willing to offer members of the IOP the journal for 125 dollars, provided that their libraries subscribe. The latter should not be much of a problem because if the general science library subscribes that is ok with us.

If, in principle, you find this proposal of interest then I would very much like to discuss it in more detail with you."

I replied that the proposal in the IOP Newsletter expressed the view of its signatories but does "not necessarily reflect the policy of IOP"; I indicated that I appreciate Elsevier's proposition of strongly reducing the price of the Review for IOP members and that the

proposition will be discussed by the IOP membership. Until now, as IOP President, I have preferred to be "neutral" in this affair but I must confess that I hardly see the IOP becoming an Editor group. I am convinced it would be very expensive and time-consuming. I propose first that the proposition of collaboration between RPP and IOP be considered carefully and discussed in the columns of our Newsletter and /or on its electronic medium; Mike Boulter will be delighted to have material of the newsletter! Nevertheless if a majority of the membership proves to be in favour of a new journal, our Organization will encourage any voluntary efforts from a group among the signatories to determine the cost of producing a journal, a means to finance etc..

J. GALTIER, Montpellier

NEWS OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

THE SIXTH QUADRENNIAL CONFERENCE OF IOP (IOPC-VI), Qinhuangdao City, Hebei Province, China, 2000

All colleagues and friends of Palaeobotany are welcome to participate in this cross-centuries grand conference. All details regarding the conference are contained in the First Circular.

The brochures of the First Circular have been partly sent out by the Secretariat of the Organising Committee before the end of January, 1998. Those who have not received the brochures and are interested in this conference, please contact the Secretary-General. Any kind of input (ideas, suggestions, etc.) to the conference which could help the Organising Committee to serve you better will be warmly appreciated.

L. LUJUN (Prof.) Secr. IOPC-VI Organising Committee
Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology,
Academia Sinica, Nanjing 210008, China
E-mail: lixx@ninet.nj.ac.cn, Fax: 86-25-3357026

NEWS OF INDIVIDUALS

NEW PROFESSOR

Prof. Dr. Jean-Pierre Berger has recently been nominated as associated professor (paleontology and stratigraphy) at the University of Fribourg.

RESEARCH PALAEOBOTANIST

Paul Kenrick has recently been appointed Research Palaeobotanist in the Department of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum, London (P.Kenrick@nhm.ac.uk). He will continue his research on the origin and evolution of land plants, as well as pursuing interests in the systematics and evolution of clubmosses and ferns.